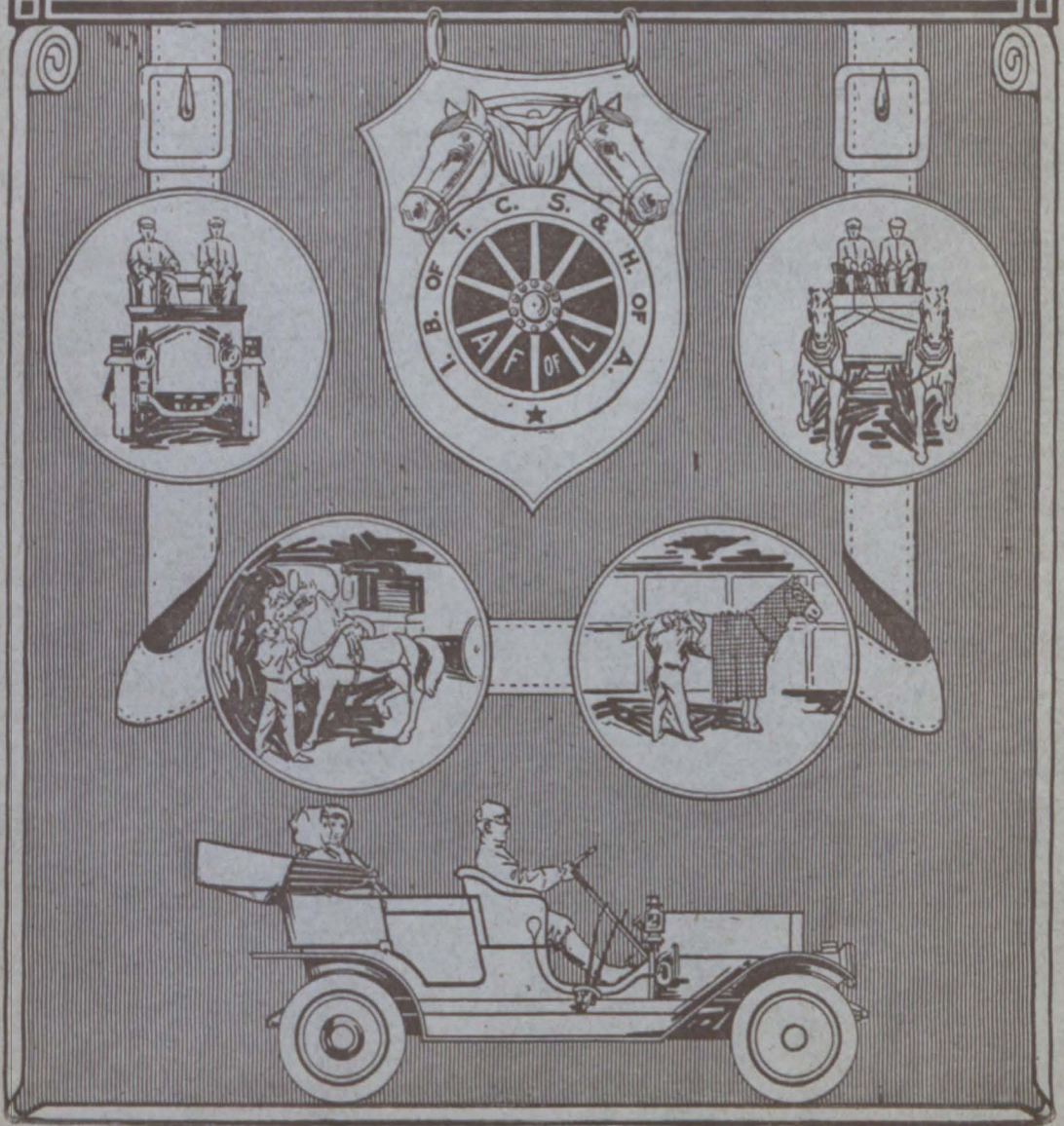


APRIL, 1915

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN AND HELPERS
OF AMERICA



Local No. 753, Milk Wagon Drivers, are presenting a new wage scale to their employers, which goes into effect on April 1, their present wage scale having been in effect for three years, expires on that date. The local is asking for a six-day week, which, of course, will mean considerable discussion between the employers and the committee of the union, who will argue from all standpoints for and against this request of the men. We wish the union success and hope that they will be successful in obtaining what they are looking for. There are 2,600 members in the organization. It is now the largest local union affiliated with the International Union.

We have just had a letter from Alex Maguire in which he says that the trouble existing between the Quaker City Taxicab Company and his local union, the Chauffeurs, No. 477, has been adjusted satisfactorily to all parties concerned, and he conveys to this office his appreciation of the services rendered by Organizer Ashton, who was instrumental in bringing about the settlement.

Organizer Farrell has returned from Texas to Chicago. While in that district he organized three local unions. He speaks of that district as being one of the districts in which organization is bound to prosper in the near future, although at this time conditions are not very favorable, as all the Southern States have been in bad shape for the past year. He says that in another year it will be possible for the International Brotherhood to obtain a pretty good organization in every city and town in the State of Texas, as the men in that State are beginning to realize the necessity for organization. Working conditions and wages in Texas for drivers and chauffeurs are far below the conditions and wages obtained for the same class of work in other parts of the country.

Whatever else you do be sure to pay your dues to the union promptly. This is the first consideration of all true union men. Understand that every time you assist in making the union better than it is, you are helping yourself. The union stands for nothing but a square deal, and you who are on the inside of the organization should see to it that the square deal obtains in your every act during the day. Also understand that every time you add a member to the union you are making your own position stronger. Sometimes men find fault with other men and say that they are not worthy of membership, but we should not be too critical in matters of this kind. The individuals who are injuring us are the men on the outside, and we should endeavor to make the union stronger by bringing in the stray sheep who are outside the fold. We can do more with any man on the inside of the union than we can with him on the outside.

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WAR PRICES



ARS is an ugly customer, no matter what his mood. No sooner are his demands met in one respect than he renews them in another. The

British have succeeded in recruiting their army without resorting to conscription, but now the government is at its wits' ends to meet the demands of the people at home. Prices of food and coal have risen to such an extent that it means great hardships for the people, and they are clamoring for relief. The citizen blames the baker for the price of bread; the baker accuses the miller, the miller the farmer and importer, and the importer the shipowners; and there is a general cry for a reduction in freight rates. But to meet this demand is not so easy as some seem to think. It is by no means certain that the government will solve the problem by taking over the shipping or by arbitrarily reducing the rates. The law of supply and demand obtains in war as well as in peace. Millions of men taken from the ranks of production, and organized for purposes of destruction, must necessarily change the relation of people to goods. When Great Britain withdrew fifteen hundred vessels from the carrying trade, and devoted them to mili-

tary purposes, there was an inevitable advance in freight rates. And it should be nothing short of the direst necessity that would warrant the government in restoring the rates to the former level. There is now great risk in the carrying trade. If a vessel be lost the insurance is small compensation, because the ship cannot be replaced for a long time, which deprives the owners of their income during the period of waiting. If the government should take over the ships, or compel a return to normal rates, there would be great confusion in shipping circles. The tonnage available is sufficient to carry only a small part of the goods to be moved. The advance in rates has sifted the freights until only those of most urgent need are forwarded. But if rates were to be reduced to the normal level, with the present tonnage

shortage, all manner of things would be offered, and great congestion would result. To fix an arbitrary freight rate would necessitate the government's discrimination in saying what freight should be accepted. To suspend the law of supply and demand during the war would likely engulf the government in more troubles than it cured. Every interest depends upon another, and the changing of one necessitates mending of all. If wages are not sufficient to provide a living at present prices, it were better for the government to arbitrarily increase wages, than to begin meddling with prices. Thus is it becoming more and more apparent that the evils of war are not confined entirely to the field of battle. Mars is a disagreeable fellow, whether at home or abroad.—The Public.

A "COARSE-GRAINED BULLY"



SENATOR BORAH scathingly denounced General Superintendent Stephens of the railway mail service in the Senate because of a threat alleged to have been made by the postal official in a speech at Indianapolis declaring he would summarily dismiss any of his clerks if they signed petitions for the enactment of the Borah bill to prohibit the "speeding-up" system in the postal service.

"A mere petty, impudent, time-serving, slavish, coarse-grained, cowardly attache of bureaucracy; an arbitrary, bullying, vicious and unconscionable over-employee of the government," were some of the strong terms used by the aroused senator in describing Stephens.

"A man loyal to our institutions,

sensitive in the slightest degree to the admonitions which come to those who would see them preserved, will respect the rights of the humblest and most dependent as quickly as the rights of the strong and the powerful. One who would brutalize the feelings of those who can not, except at great cost, protect their interests is to be distrusted, for he possesses neither the sense of justice nor the conception of manhood indispensable to a trusted employee of the government. These men, sir, are under him; they are at his mercy. The civil-service law would be futile to protect them. For entertaining such narrow, vicious and vindictive feelings there is no falsehood he would not father, no slander he would not propagate to bring them within the rules of the civil service and within the pale of

his splenetic and revengeful purpose."

Continuing, Senator Borah said: "If there is one argument, however, which stands out strongly in favor of this bill, it is that these men are to be speeded up and tested under the supervision and gaze of a man who seems to think that they are slaves and subjects, the despised dumb cogs in a vast machine, to be worked to the limit, and when worn and broken to be kicked into a junk pile as refuse and waste."

In spite of the fact that postal employes have a statutory right to organize and to petition Congress, as set forth in the Lloyd-LaFollette bill for which the A. F. of L. fought through the Sixty-second Congress, Superintendent Stephens is quoted as saying in a banquet speech in Indianapolis: "And let me tell you that anybody that signs that petition (Borah petition) with that statement is up before the general superintendent of this service for removal for lying. Tell your fellow clerks that. I do not think any of you gentlemen signed that petition, but whoever signs it

is going to come up before the general superintendent for removal. I have the power and the authority and the inclination and the decision to remove that man from the service."

Following the Stephens threat at Indianapolis, Senator Borah received many letters from clerks who signed the petition asking that their names be removed because of the fear of dismissal. Senator Borah refused to insert these names in the Congressional Record for the reason that he did not want to "subject these men to the surveillance and to the impudent interference of this tyrannizing satellite of bureaucracy."

Unless the utterances of Stephens are disavowed by higher authority Senator Borah served notice that he would go farther with the case.

The Borah bill is, in substance, identical with the Dietrick bill, intended to stop "speeding up" in government workshops, and which was recently reported favorably from the House labor committee at the request of organized labor.—A. F. of L. Letter.

POWER OF OUR COURTS



ONE of the most important decisions by the United States Supreme Court in recent years was that rendered last month in the so-called "coercion" case, in which a certain statute of the State was declared unconstitutional by a majority of the tribunal.

The law in question was very similar if not identical with one enacted by the Legislature of California in 1893, being Section 679 of the Penal Code, and reading as follows:

"Any person or corporation within this State, or agent or officer on behalf of such person or corporation, who shall hereafter coerce or compel any person or persons to enter into an agreement, either written or verbal, not to join or become a member of any labor organization, as a condition of such person or persons securing employment, or continuing in the employment of any such person or corporation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The decision was by Chief Justice White, and Justices McKenna, Lamar, Vandervanter, Pitney and

McReynolds, with Justices Day, Holmes and Hughes dissenting.

It was based partly upon a decision rendered some years ago in what is known as the Adair case, but chiefly upon the ground that the Kansas law is repugnant to the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution, which provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property "without due process of law."

The Supreme Court of Kansas, however, had upheld the statute of that State which the Federal tribunal had declared void.

In the case in question it was found, as a matter of fact, that the employe was required to choose between giving up his position or agreeing to having nothing to do with any labor union during his employment.

This was held by the majority of the Federal Court not to be "coercion," or undue influence, its opinion being, in the words of a press synopsis, that the employer had a right in selecting his employes "to exercise the privilege of determining fitness by inquiry into their associations."

In that same majority decision the court was careful to disclaim any intention of holding that the State may not exercise power to prevent employers from "coercing" employes.

The majority decision in effect holds that by refusing to employ union men an employer does not violate any law, nor by requiring men seeking employment to agree not to join a labor union.

The question of "coercion," it says, is to be determined by the circumstances in each particular case.

Further, the majority decision is at pains to set forth that there is nothing in the opinion of the court inconsistent with recognition of the lawfulness of labor unions, but that they must not in-

terfere with the right of "freedom of contract."

A vigorous dissenting opinion was filed by Justices Hughes and Holmes, in which Justice Day joined. Justice Day said, among other things of like tenor:

"The law should be as zealous to protect the constitutional liberty of the employe as it is to guard that of the employer. The principal object of this statute is to protect the liberty of the citizen to make such lawful affiliation as he may desire with organizations of his choice. It should not be necessary to the protection of the liberty of one citizen that the same right in another citizen should be abridged or destroyed."

The same able justice brought out very strongly the weakness of the majority decision by asking these pertinent questions:

"Could an employer not be forbidden from demanding agreements that an employe should not join the National Guard? Could not the State strike down agreements not to join a certain political party? Why not labor unions, whatever members of this court may think of these unions?"

Justice Day well might have added that if it is not within the power of a State to forbid an employer from requiring his employes not to join a labor union, the State must also be powerless to require that no employer shall interfere with the religious belief of an employe, or with his right to membership in any particular church.

This majority decision seems to suit very well such organs of capital and corporations as the New York Sun. But it is denounced as reactionary by the New York World and many other leading newspapers of the country in sympathy with popular rights. The World says:

"If this decision stands, it will

mean industrial proscription and warfare now and for evermore. It will fortify unionism in some places and non-unionism in others. It asserts as a right a matter that may be only a preference or a prejudice. It punishes a union man for working. It opens the door to innumerable outrages where non-union men are concerned. It is altogether reactionary, and it is certain to have no good results."

The World is right. The Kansas law, like its California counterpart, aims to do no more than protect the right of every worker to get the benefit of collective bargaining, for that is the underlying principle of all labor unions.

If the employe be denied the right to join a union, he is thrown entirely upon his individual initiative as to hours and wages, and in the great majority of cases is compelled to take whatever the employer may choose to offer.

Such laws as the one declared void by the United States Supreme Court are not in reality an interference with any natural or moral right of employers, but quite the contrary.

The Bee has often found occasion to contend that entirely too much power has been given the courts of the United States—as well as those of the States individually—to annul beneficial legislation upon the ground that it is "unconstitutional."

In many cases such decisions are rendered by a court more or less divided—sometimes by a bare majority of one. And not infrequently, as in the present instance, the minority opinion is by far the more just, fair and equitable, and in keeping with progressive ideas.

Accordingly, this paper long has argued that no court should be allowed to nullify an act of any State or of Congress save by unanimous

opinion of all its judges. Where there is room for reasonable doubt, as evidenced by the dissent of any judge, the law should have the benefit of the doubt.

In this country the people have become so much accustomed to court decisions of a nullifying sort that they are apt to forget our judiciary has a power unknown in other lands. In Great Britain, for example, no act of Parliament can be invalidated by any court, even by unanimous voice of all its judges.

There is in England a sort of unwritten constitution, although no written one. And yet an act of Parliament signed by the king, making the most radical changes in the government—such, for instance, as abolishing the veto power of the House of Lords, or even the throne itself—is constitutional and beyond the power of any court to attack. In fact, Parliament may wipe out or reconstruct all the courts as it sees fit, and has done so at various times in the past.

Then why should not the people of America control their courts, instead of being controlled by them?—Sacramento Bee.

There will be the full complement of backs broken in two, of arms twisted wholly off, of men impaled upon their bayonets, of legs smashed up like bits of firewood, of heads sliced open like apples, of other heads crunched into soft jelly by the iron hoofs of horses, of faces trampled out of all likeness to anything human. This is what skulks behind "a splendid charge." This is what follows, as a matter of course, when our fellows rode at them in style and cut them up famously.—Charles Dickens.

THE ADVANTAGES OF HIGH DUES



POWER is necessary to influence. Power depends upon resources. This is true of the trade union as well as of every other organization. The labor organizations that have the greatest power to protect their members and the greatest influence in furthering the needs and the demands of their members are the labor organizations provided with ample, substantial financial resources.

There is only one way to accumulate organization funds—payment of adequate union dues. Organizations have found it a wise policy to increase low dues as rapidly as possible because increased financial resources at their command give them increased prestige, increased ability to secure better wages and working conditions and increased ability to provide against threatened dangers. There is no investment a wage-earner can make that will bring him greater returns than his union dues. If dues to the union are increased proportionally as the union increases wages, the power of the union to promote and safeguard the interests of its members becomes increasingly effective.

The financial organization of a trade union must be based on sound business principles. Wildcat finances in trade unions will be no more reliable than wildcat banking investments. Money will not get into the union treasury by miracle or by the wishing process. The protection of a well-filled treasury is possible only for those who are willing to pay the price in dues, management and foresight. The very existence of a sound financial organization constitutes a defense of its members. Power does not always have to be

aggressively used in order to be effective—reserve power is often the most potent. Consciousness that they possess power puts moral courage and confidence into the workers, and it puts fear into the hearts of those who would wrong them. When power exists there is hesitancy to deny the possessors their rights or fair demands. The existence of the power of self-defense prevents many industrial struggles while the weak and the helpless are wronged with impunity.

As union dues are increased it is possible to extend the system of union benefits. These benefits supplement the wages earned and enable unionists to live better and more comfortably.

Labor organizations are constantly preaching the gospel of higher wages. What wages are to the individual, dues are to the organization. The ideal of the American Federation is to have each organization strong, competent to manage its affairs and to solve its own difficulties. While there is whole-souled sympathy and willingness to help fellow workers in their time of need, yet the best results for all workers can be obtained when each organization is free to protect and promote the rights and interests of its own members and to organize the yet unorganized.

But high dues should not be accompanied by high initiation fee. Indeed, the initiation fee should be small, thereby inviting and making it possible for the yet unorganized to join the union and to make common cause with their fellow workers to secure the common welfare of all. High dues regularly paid will inevitably lead to greater self-reliance, mutual interdependence, unity, solidarity, fraternity and federation.—Gompers.

HIGH DUES BETTER THAN PERSONAL APPEALS



THE Seattle Convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution which urged all national, international, local and federated bodies to put forth every effort at their command to establish as soon as possible a system within their own organizations providing weekly financial assistance for members when involved in strikes or lockouts. Strikes which occur when there has not been the proper preparation for financial support cause needless misery and suffering and increase the difficulties of winning the strike. When those who are conducting the strike must depend for funds upon circular and personal appeals the movement loses in force and well-directed procedure. The Philadelphia Convention instructed the editor of the American Federationist to publish bi-monthly articles dealing with the subject-matter of this resolution. Several officers of internationals have been asked to contribute articles describing the systems in their organizations to provide funds. President Tobin wrote the following suggestive account of the experiences of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.—Gompers.

My conclusions upon the subject of union dues are based upon the experience of our own organization under low dues and frequent strikes and later under what is called the high dues, which have resulted in almost eliminating strikes.

Previous to 1895 we had in the shoe trade the Lasters' Protective Union, representing one branch of the trade and the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union rep-

resenting the other branches of the trade, both affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. There was also a shoe workers' organization connected with the Knights of Labor.

In April of 1895 the three organizations named, together with several independent local shoe unions, held a joint convention in Boston and amalgamated under our present organization.

We began with weekly dues of 10 cents, following the example of other organizations above named. The per capita tax to the general union from the locals was fixed at 8 cents per month per member, which, if paid regularly, would amount to 96 cents per year for each member, and if continued regularly for five years, providing none of the per capita tax was spent for any other purpose, sufficient would be paid in to furnish each member with less than one week's strike benefit on the basis of \$5 per week.

The organization provided for \$3 per week strike benefit, but inasmuch as per capita tax was barely sufficient to meet the expenses of the general office, there was no provision made to pay the strike benefit. Consequently we had to beg and borrow to finance many strikes which we were obliged to enter into, as manufacturers were not disposed to yield any consideration to an organization which was not financially able to assert itself effectively.

After four years of precarious existence upon a poverty basis, a strike of about 3,000 members occurred in Marlboro, Mass., in November, 1898, and continuing for over six months, taught us the folly of trying to finance a strike by depending upon voluntary contributions from affiliated trade

unionists who had to take care of their own troubles.

In the following June, with a bankrupt organization, we held a convention in Rochester, N. Y., in which thirty-two delegates participated. Dues were raised to 25 cents per week, and the officers promised that if only seven members would subscribe to the constitution there adopted, a successful organization would be guaranteed. The constitution was adopted, but our members at the beginning were very reluctant to assume the new rate of dues, which looked high by comparison with 10 cents per week. A prediction was made that the shoe workers would not pay the increased amount, but the answer was that inasmuch as they did not pay the 10 cents we could not be worse off than we were under the old system.

The officers' faith in the constitution has been fully vindicated by the fact that from the very beginning until the present time there has been continued and uninterrupted progress, and during the present unusual depression in business generally our members have not suffered reductions in wages. On the contrary we have secured increases in many instances. Our members enjoy the highest rate of wages prevailing in the trade, and the manufacturers with whom we have contract relations are the most prosperous, due to the fact that the waste through strikes has been converted into profits for the employer and into increased wages for the workers.

We pay out an average of \$100,000 per year in sick and death benefits, the weekly sick benefit being \$5 and the death benefit \$100. Our strike benefit is \$5 per week, and we have in every single instance been able to pay to our members on strike the full amount to which they have been entitled by the constitution. We have conduct-

ed such strikes as we have had without diminishing our general funds and without appealing for assistance or the levy of assessments. We have paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars on union stamp advertising and have met every financial obligation to the last cent. We have become a permanent institution and our trade agreements are considered valuable to our members as well as to the employers. During the past six months of unusual business depression our cash reserve has been gaining steadily and is \$50,000 greater now than it was six months ago. Thus we are prepared to meet any emergency that is likely to rise which may call for financial stability.

While we began our present system of high dues with only thirty-two delegates at a convention in 1899, we had at our last convention in June, 1913, 287 delegates, indicating a very substantial growth.

In my opinion one of the greatest obstacles to higher dues in unions now paying low dues is the fear of the officers that the rank and file will not pay high dues and that the officers may, by advocating higher dues, lose their popularity. Other organizations promise they will provide for high dues after they have become larger, but in my opinion this is a mistake, as the larger the organization the more difficult it will be to establish high dues. We were successful in establishing high dues because we had everything to gain and nothing to lose.

I unqualifiedly recommend high dues and the elimination of per capita tax to the national unions, and in its place substitute a percentage of the dues and initiation fees collected. Our organization provides that one-third of the dues and initiation fees shall be retained by the local union, and two-thirds

forwarded to the general union. The due books and standing of the membership are determined at

headquarters and all benefits are paid from the general funds.

JOHN F. TOBIN.

LINCOLN AND LABOR



N honest laborer digs coal at about 70 cents a day, while the President digs abstractions at about \$70 a day. The coal is clearly worth more than the abstractions, and yet what a monstrous inequality in the prices.

Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored, and others have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy subject of any good government.

As labor is the common burden of our race, so the effort of some to shift their share of the burden onto the shoulders of others is the great durable curse of the race.

The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relations, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds.

These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert to fleece the people, and now that they have got into a quarrel with themselves, we are called upon to appropriate the people's money to settle the quarrel.

The same spirit says: "You toil and work and earn bread and I'll eat it." No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the

people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle.

I believe each individual is naturally entitled to do as he pleases with himself and the fruit of his labor, so far as it in no wise interferes with any other man's rights.

Today the railroads plunder the workers by low wages, long hours and impossible burdens. They plunder the people by excessive rates. Every article of food we eat, of clothes we wear, and everything we use costs more because of the excessive railroad rates.

The railroads cost the people of this country \$3,171,000,000 every year, which means \$158.50 of every family for the railroads alone—one quarter of the entire cost of living of an average family.

And yet they are about to raise their rates. Not satisfied with their enormous profits, they still seek more. And they will get it.

For fifty years our politicians and statesmen have told us that the railroad problem could be easily solved and would be solved by "regulation." Yet to this day not one problem has been solved by that method.

Meanwhile, nearly every important nation on earth has established public ownership of railroads, and found it a satisfactory solution of the problem. Of the seventy-eight nations in the world today, all but nine own all or considerable proportions of their railroads. Twenty-three great nations own and operate over 95 per cent. of their mileage.

(Continued on Page 16.)

EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin.)

A MAN should not be judged or considered great by the amount of taxes he pays or by his standing in the assessor's office. Great men today are not judged great by their wealth. No one will say that John D. Rockefeller is as wonderful a man, or as great to his country, as President Woodrow Wilson. The former is worth one thousand millions, while the latter is practically a poor college professor, so the greatness of the two men is not measured by wealth. The late J. P. Morgan was known all over the world as a great financier. He passed away about a year ago and today he is practically unheard of, no one, not even his own family, mourns his loss. Abraham Lincoln, the poor woodchopper, who gave his life in the interest of justice and humanity, will live in the annals of history, while history itself is written. Ben Butler did not have as much money when he passed away as Levy Mayer has at the present time, although the wonderful genius of the two men could not be compared. Butler was the champion of the poor and the downtrodden, while Levy Mayer, of Chicago, represents the wealthy unscrupulous corporations. It is a shame to mention the two men in the same paragraph. No, it is not by the amount of money that men make in this world that they are judged great or small. If a man fulfills the position in life in which he is placed, no matter how humble it may be, if he does his very best and performs his duty in such a way as to bring more sunshine into his surroundings for himself and those he represents; if he acts in the unselfish spirit that permeates an individual who always has in mind his fellowmen—if he does this, and does it well, without flinching or without fear, regardless of any threat of disaster, either physically or financially, he is a better man and has done more for the world than he who rolls up, year after year, at the expense of the blood of his fellowmen, wealth, which, after all, remains behind when he passes away. We do not want our readers to infer from this statement that a man is not justly bound to protect himself and his family. We do not want to give out the impression that he must give all that he has or that he needs for himself to the world; rather would we impress a spirit of economy and a feeling that men must at all times be able to take care of themselves and their families. But that is not the intent of writing the above words. Our purpose is to try and disabuse the minds of our members who are dissatisfied because they cannot do something great, because they cannot be wonderful manufacturers, statesmen or teachers; we want to show them that even in the most humble position an individual may be great; that discontent and dissatisfactions are diseases that grow and should not be encouraged, and that no matter in what position we are placed our opportunities of doing good are just as many as those who are placed in higher positions, and that after all the self-satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your duty by yourself and your union, or by your fellowmen, is the greatest reward you can obtain.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS has sent out a circular letter to all International Unions again preaching the doctrine of the American Federation of Labor, of low initiation fees and high dues. He says in the circular that what we want is men and women to join our organization. We should make it as easy as possible for them to join, but after they once become members we should educate them toward the payment of high dues, because on the establishment of high dues, which means the establishment of a high treasury, depends the success of the organization. The writer has preached this doctrine ever since he became your editor. It is a criminal injustice to charge a teamster \$100.00 to join the organization, as is being done at the present time by some of our local unions, who also have a monthly due of 50 cents. Whether this statement appeals to you or not, we are talking for the benefit of our organization, and from the experience we have obtained in dealing with other organization throughout the country, and without any intent to offend any one of our members or our locals in the slightest way, we say that the International constitution should provide that no initiation fee be higher than \$10.00, and it would be better if it were only \$5.00, and the lowest dues paid to any local union should be \$1.00 per member per month. If a man has obtained an increase in wages of \$3.00 or \$4.00 per week, as a result of the union, he should not hesitate to pay at least 25 cents per week in dues to the union. Each local union should pay a proportional share of the amount received to the International Union. Strong finances, locally and Internationally, means success. Some members will argue that high initiation fees are in order, because the new man coming in ought to pay for the conditions that have been obtained. This is the wrong way to figure it out. If he pays high dues he is paying for what has been done, but when a poor working man, a teamster, who has a family, is required to pay \$25.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00 initiation fee in order that he may be like his fellowmen—a trade unionist—it is just like drawing the life-blood from the children of that man. He suffers privation and his wife and family must also suffer privation, perhaps starvation, while he is making the payments on this outrageous initiation fee. He may have been out of work for several weeks before going to work at our craft, and sometimes because of the fact that he is afraid to shoulder the responsibility of paying a high initiation fee he remains out of the union, and consequently we lose a good man for the organization. President Gompers and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor had this in mind when sending out the circular letter that we have just received.

We trust that you will give this matter consideration and look at it only from the standpoint of business judgment, not from the district in which you yourself reside, but take into consideration the entire working family of our country and the general condition of our organization.

WE notice, on looking over the papers, that President Mahon, of the Amalgamated Street and Electric Railway Employees' Union, makes certain recommendations to the general executive board of that organization in dealing with the Jitney bus proposition. The sum and substance of his report or recommendation is the condemnation of the Jitney bus. It would perhaps be unfair to blame the head of the street car men's organization for having a decided opinion against any movement that might have a tendency to interfere with the employment of his membership, but we take it that the men engaged in the operation of the Jitney buses need the work as

much as any other class of men, and as they come directly under the jurisdiction of our International Union, a word in their defense may not be amiss.

First, we want to say that we have chartered several local unions of Jitney bus drivers in many sections of the country and that the chauffeurs engaged in this industry are all English-speaking individuals and a high percentage of them American citizens. We question whether or not the operation of the Jitney buses will have any serious effect on the street railway men. Also we have reason to believe that opposition to the street car companies in certain cities may have a tendency to bring those said street car companies, who are the bitterest enemies of labor, to a realization of the fact that they had better work hand in hand with their employes, allow the organization of said employes and seek the assistance of said organization to combat this new competition in trade, viz., the Jitney bus. For instance, there is no greater enemy of organized labor than the street car company in the city of Los Angeles, where there are in the neighborhood of one thousand Jitney buses in operation, as we are informed. We know the feeling of the street car company there toward trade unions. The same can be said of Indianapolis, where, on their own testimony, the officials of the street railway company stated before the commission appointed by the Governor to hear the grievance of both sides, namely, the street car company and the men, that they hired paid sluggers to beat up the organizers of the International Union and the officers of the local union. Do you think that the street car men, or any other body of men, would be justified in fighting for the protection of an industry for such a corporation? This same condition exists in many parts of the country, so we believe that competition in street conveyances may, in time, have a tendency to make it better for the street car men. Aside from this fact, the Jitney bus is a new innovation. It is progress, and if the people want it it is going to stay and it will be useless to fight against it. Just the same as the 5-cent picture house or theater: just the same as the 5-cent lunchroom, now established institutions throughout the country, so it is with the Jitney bus, and although it may change from its present form, our opinion is that it is an institution that has come to stay, and it is very foolish to fight it. Rather it would be better to endeavor to organize the men engaged at this industry. Individual owners in most instances are now operating the Jitney bus, but in time it is safe to say that large companies will be formed and said companies will operate two, three or four hundred of those conveyances as time goes on and the increase in population will demand it. The street car companies in many cities at the present time are unable to cope with the traffic, so other methods must be adopted. Street car companies, where they have had no competition and where they have had unlimited franchises, have been doing just as they pleased and the public has become disgusted, consequently with our ever rushing progress we have this new problem at our door. Therefore we must reconcile ourselves to this new idea, as the printer reconciled himself to the linotype machine; as we had to reconcile ourselves to the electric car instead of the horse-drawn vehicle, so too must we take off our hats to this present step toward the handling of passengers on the streets of our large cities throughout the country. We have reason to believe that large companies will be organized. Already in one city in the South a company has been organized and is operating quite a large number of these 5-cent machines. Rumor has it that the Ford Automobile Manufacturing Company is backing up this new innovation

in many places, so we had better take our coats off, even though it may interfere slightly with the street car employes and with our taxicab drivers, for the time being, and get down to business and organize those drivers or chauffeurs into our unions.

THERE should be no misunderstanding between the officers of a local union as to which one is boss or which one is the principal officer. The president is the head of the organization and has charge of the business of the union during the meeting. If he is the business agent, he is the principal officer between the meetings. The secretary-treasurer has charge of the finances of the organization and the books, ledger, etc., belonging to the union. Both officers should work together in harmony, exchanging views as often as possible. No business agent has the power to call a strike between meetings, unless by a previous vote of his local union.

Matters of importance pertaining to the best interests of the local union should be referred to the executive board without any unnecessary discussion of same on the floor of the organization. The executive officers should be the best men in the union. Each one of them should attend every meeting of the organization.

There is nothing wrong about a business agent taking a drink or two, but the man who does not drink at all during working hours usually makes the best business agent. The smell of intoxicating liquor on the business agent when talking with an employer immediately weakens the prestige of that officer. Hanging around a saloon either during the day or during the night does not broaden the mind of the representative of the union, no matter what good-fellowship it may promote.

The secretary-treasurer who shoots "craps" and bets on the baseball score continuously, if he has the money of the organization in his pocket, is very often tempted to borrow some of that money. The principal work of an organization should be to see to it that the officers handling the money of their union are properly bonded. Apply to the general office for instructions or information as to bonding. There should be no sympathy for the man who is entrusted with the funds of his union who goes wrong. He should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Signing yearly wage scales is now out of date. Unions should sign for a longer period than one year, because yearly wrangling with our employers brings about no good.

What do you care if the other fellow is not doing right? You do your share and perhaps by your example you may shame the other fellow into doing the right thing also.

We do not expect our individual members to be expert penmen or college professors, but even an ordinary working man may exercise common sense and good judgment in dealing with the affairs of his union.

You can get more sound thinking from the average teamster and chauffeur than you can get from the average doctor or school teacher, because we are practical thinking individuals while the majority of educated men are theorists.

But, to get back to where we started from: there should be no jealousy, no feeling or ill-will existing between the president and other officers of the union. There is honor enough for all and each one should do his duty, or go further, even, by helping the other fellow if it is within his power to do so. By doing this you will make yourself a bigger and better man.

THERE is nothing so dangerous to a man as to believe that he himself is always right and others are always wrong.

Inasmuch as you always demand fair play for yourself, why not give and practice fair play for others?

In every union there are one or two "bad actors" who may be good union men and who are honest, but the union would be better off without them.

A steward in a stable or garage has no power except to see that the concern for whom the men are working runs under union conditions, and if there is anything wrong, to report it to the business agent or to the union.

The greatest test of genius is that which turns defeat into victory.

The man with a long face and pitiful story is not welcome any place. He brings with him the germs of displeasure and uneasiness.

The fellow who pays his bills promptly usually makes a good workman and a good husband.

The man who is always blaming his employer for all of his troubles would himself, if conditions were reversed, be an impossible employer to work for.

The working man who has to stand a reduction in wages is not much of a working man or he would get a job some other place without bringing the matter to the union. This does not apply where there is a general cut in violation of the scale.

Sometimes when an employer treats you in an unfair manner, he wants you to leave but hates to tell you. He wants you to get a job some other place but dislikes to tell you so.

Dishonesty and untruthfulness grow upon a man who does not try to check them at once, just the same as sleep creeps over you after a hard day's work.

There is nothing so contemptible as the man who is always breaking his promise and endeavors to blame his weakness to some other cause—sometimes to family troubles.

There is more than one discreditable way for advertising the trade union movement. For instance, some of the fireworks display of the Chicago building trades.

I ask our members throughout the country, when purchasing clothing, to look only for the garment bearing the label of the United Garment Workers of America. All other labels on men's clothing, including the Journeymen Tailors' label, is, at the present time, wrong. There is a split or secession movement in the United Garment Workers' organization, and no matter what excuse or cause is given by the secessionists, the principle is wrong and unfounded and should not be countenanced by any body of union men in any part of the country. If there is anything in the labor movement more terrible or deplorable than secession, I would like to know what it is. Traitors, cut-throats and spies within the union are bad; they have always had a tendency to weaken it, but they are not half as bad as a secession or independent movement. The clothing trades throughout the country are in a terrible condition. This organization has accomplished wonders within that industry, but agitators of political reform and trade union reform are, at the present time, destroying the splendid work that has been accomplished for the clothing workers in years past. Look, therefore, for the label of the United Garment Workers of America and accept no other.

CORRESPONDENCE



PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Wishing the rank and file of our craftsmen to know that Local No. 162 is still doing business at the same old stand we again write our magazine, after a long interval, to tell you of conditions in our city.

Spring is now with us, and the prospects in our line of work seem good. While our membership is increasing slowly there are a great many who do not belong and there is much work to be done in organizing, and while we find the work at times almost discouraging our rank and file are true blue and we know that the only way to protect ourselves is to organize and educate the other fellow in order to maintain our own working conditions.

We won a victory over the Employers' Association and the blood-sucking contractors in our City Council on Feb. 24, when the city commissioners voted three to one to make the scale for contractors doing city work the same as that paid by the city, \$3 per eight hours. It will induce the contractors to hire white men that don't need an interpreter.

We take pleasure in anticipating the time when our International Officers will pass through our city on their way to San Francisco and we will be able to renew old acquaintances. Of course, you will come by way of the Rose City, as everybody does, and be assured of a good time. Hoping we are not taking up too much space in our

magazine, we beg to remain

Fraternally yours,

E. J. WRIGHT,

Correspondent Local No. 162.

DOUBLEDAY PAGE COMPANY

The Allied Printing Trades Council of Greater New York receives from time to time requests for information as to the attitude of the Doubleday Page Company toward our unions and requests us to publish this statement.

Through the labor press throughout the country we desire to make known to every member of organized labor and their friends the fact that there has been no change whatever in the antagonistic attitude of the Doubleday Page Company toward the members of trade unions and they will not knowingly employ any member of organized labor, and they do not pay the prevailing scale of wages in the composing room, press room, book-binding, mailing and electrotpe departments.

While we receive numerous communications for information on this question, there is a large number of members of organized labor and their friends who will not write for this information, and we therefore adopt this method of letting the public know and understand that the Doubleday Page Company is just as antagonistic toward organized labor as they were over a year ago when they endeavored to have our unions in Greater New York punished as violators of the Sherman law. We have no doubt that your readers will be pleased to know that the Federal investigation found that

the New York unions were in no way violating the Sherman law or any other law.

(Published by request of Allied Printing Trades Council of Greater New York, Peter S. Grady, secretary.)

LINCOLN AND LABOR

(Continued from Page 9.)

And everywhere the results are the same—rates are reduced, the service is improved, labor is better treated, and the nation gets the profit to use for the common good.

The actual value of the railways of the country, according to estimates based upon findings of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is about \$15,000,000,000. Now, it is not necessary that the government should take over the whole system at once. It could buy enough of the voting stock to get control. The rest would be easy.

But suppose we bought out the whole system. We would not need to borrow the whole amount, since in our government banks, and through our income and inheritance taxes we would already have a considerable proportion of the necessary funds. But suppose the government should borrow the whole \$15,000,000,000. The interest on the loan at 2 per cent. would be \$300,000,000. But the railroads' net income over and above all expenses is \$737,667,000. (Interstate commerce commission report of 1912, p. 42). So we could pay the interest on the loan and have \$437,667,000 left every year.

So, under public ownership, we could raise wages. Raise them \$100 a year to every railway employe in the country, from the section hand to the president of the road, just as a "starter." That would only require \$100,000,000

per year. We would still have \$337,667,000 left.

Next we could reduce rates so as to reduce the cost of living. Let \$100,000,000 go for that. We would still have \$237,667,000 left.

Next let us set aside \$1,000,000,000 per year as a sinking fund to pay off the original debt when it came due. We would still have \$137,667,000 left.

With that \$137,667,000 we could buy up the next utility; raise wages in that industry, shorten hours, improve conditions; reduce the cost of living; and use the remaining profits to buy the next utility.—Socialist Press.

The enemies of the trades union movement are meeting behind closed doors in secret conclave, plotting for the emasculation and possible repeal of beneficiary laws enacted in recent years in the interest of the workers. Blinded by greed and devoid of human sympathy, they cannot see the handwriting on the wall—the eternal struggle for justice and better working conditions and the progress it has made in modern civilization. All attempts to check the onward movement are doomed to failure.—Cigar Makers' Journal.

Holyoke, Mass.—The State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation asked Treasurer Fowler of the Valley Paper mill: "Do you consider \$1.10 per day a living wage?" Mr. Fowler answered: "I am not responsible for conditions under which we live in this world."

Employes of the paper mill's rag-room are on strike because of wage reductions and hour increases. The evidence showed that when these women workers protested against conditions Mr. Fowler promised them "turkeys next Christmas."

Every now and then we are asked a question by some local union about the admission of a member on a transfer card. Sometimes the union asks if a member should be admitted without the payment of extra fees when he comes with a transfer card from a local union having a low initiation fee and seeks admission into a local union with a high initiation fee. The answer is this, that the transfer card of any local union must be recognized, and if the member with the transfer card has held membership in the local union from which he is transferring for ninety day, then there should be no extra charge for the initiation fee, but if the gentleman joined the other union for the purpose of evading a higher initiation fee and then desires to transfer, he should be made to pay the difference. Any member working at our craft for ninety days or over and then procuring a transfer card, said transfer card should be recognized and accepted by any local union of the International organization in any part of the country. This is the benefit obtained as a result of our International Union and this we guarantee to our membership when we admit them into our organization, so there should be no doubt on this point in the future. Again, we say, relative to the issuing of transfer cards, any local union having in its membership a man working under the jurisdiction of another craft, should immediately give to this member a transfer card to the other local union under whose craft or jurisdiction the individual is working. Some locals hesitate about granting a transfer card. This should not be. Some men, members of a local union for a number of years, say that they will not take a transfer card. This stand should not be countenanced. The good member will always comply with the law and the good local will always respect the general constitution.

This is the time of the year that we are most busy in the general office. We have an average perhaps of from ten to fifteen wage scales coming into the office for approval every day during the month of March—scales that are to be presented in April and that go into effect in May. This year is no exception to the rule, although conditions are bad throughout the country, and especially in our business because of the fact that teaming in many cities is almost at a standstill. We are approving wage scales in order to give the local unions an opportunity to present them, but we advise our people to be very careful and bring about no trouble.

Men who have the best interest of the union at heart are always on the firing line and endeavoring to do something for the union. They are not standing on the street corners ridiculing the officers or finding fault with something that is being done. They are endeavoring to build up the union, and by their actions are upholding the principles of true brotherhood, for which the organization extends to them its gratitude.

Official Magazine
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
of TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
STABLEMEN *and* HELPERS
OF AMERICA

WEAR THE EMBLEM
OF

Our Organization

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THOMAS L. HUGHES, Secretary
222 East Michigan Street **Indianapolis, Indiana**